

# ***Iowa Outdoors***

## **Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

### **www.iowadnr.com**

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653  
[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sept. 28, 2004**

1. Protect the Land by Planting a Forest This Fall
2. Grants Available to Rural Fire Departments
3. State Preserves Board to Meet Oct. 8 in Floyd County
4. Iowa Fishing Report

## **PROTECT THE LAND BY PLANTING A FOREST THIS FALL**

DES MOINES - Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs and landowners wanting to create a forest should do so now when plants are available and affordable. A new forest can be placed on a piece of ground that is not getting much use, but, with the right mixture of plants, can improve water quality and the scenic beauty of the overall landscape.

“Open fields along streams, hillsides and field edges are excellent sites to create new forests by planting native trees and shrubs, no matter if it involves a half an acre or 100 acres,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources’ forestry bureau. “Forests of native trees and shrubs help reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Young forests also filter the air and provide valuable wildlife food and cover.”

Unfortunately, few people take advantage of the opportunity to plant in the late fall using Iowa grown bareroot conservation seedlings to get a head start inexpensively, Walkowiak said.

The State Forest Nursery in Ames will have thousands of new oaks and maples to native shrubs such as chokecherry and dogwood available later this fall. Cost ranges from \$0.25 to \$0.45 per plant, with a minimum order of 500 plants. Plants must be ordered in units of 100.

For more information on ordering, planting and care of seedlings, check the web site [www.iowadnr.com/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/) or call the State Forest Nursery at 800 865-2477.

**For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515-242-5966.**

###

## GRANTS AVAILABLE TO RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

AMES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has money available for Iowa's rural fire departments to help with equipment in battling wildfires. The grants offer funding assistance for wildfire equipment, personal protective equipment, and communications equipment.

Gail Kantak, fire supervisor with the DNR's forestry bureau, said fire departments will receive information about the grants soon and she is encouraging them to return a the 2004 Annual Wildfire Survey. Departments returning the survey by December 15, 2004 can receive priority points for the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant application.

"It is important for rural fire departments to return this survey so we can assess the actual demands on our rural fire departments as a result of wildfire," she said. The survey results will be compiled locally and nationally and will be reported to Congress.

The grant package being mailed to each Iowa Rural Fire Department will include:

**Volunteer Fire Assistance Application:** 50-50 cost share grants for wildfire equipment with a maximum grant of \$3,500 per department. Applications are due December 15, 2004.

**2004 Annual Wildfire Survey:** In coordination with the National Fire Plan and in an effort to assess the annual wildfire activity within the nation's rural fire departments response areas, the National Association of State Foresters and the US Forest Service have asked each state to assist them in compiling information about the nation's rural fire departments. The information that is gathered will be compiled and reported to Congress. The survey is due by January 15, 2005.

**Departments who return a completed survey by December 15, 2004 with their Volunteer Fire Assistance Application will receive priority points.**

**Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact:** A 50-50 cost share for personal protective equipment. The cost share for Iowa is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Contact Gail Kantak at 515-233-1161 for funding availability.

**Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau Fire Program Opportunities:** outlines the programming opportunities available to Iowa's fire suppression agencies by the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau in cooperation with federal, state and local partners.

The information is also available at and available at  
[www.iowadnr.com/forestry/fire.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/fire.html).

**For more information, contact Kantak at 515-233-1161.**

###

## **STATE PRESERVES BOARD TO MEET OCT. 8 IN FLOYD COUNTY**

ROCKFORD – The State Preserves Advisory Board will meet at 8:30 a.m., Oct. 8, at the Floyd County Conservation Board Fossil and Prairie Center, near Rockford.

Board members will meet at 1 p.m., Oct. 7 at Fossil and Prairie Center for a tour of the park. The meeting and the tour are open to the public.

Members of the State Preserves Advisory Board are Neil Bernstein, Robin Fortney, Laura Jackson, Scott Moats, Tim Sproul and Cynthia Peterson. The DNR Director is Jeffrey Vonk.

A more detailed agenda is available on the Iowa DNR's website  
[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) under the State Preserves Advisory Board link on the front page.

The following is the meeting agenda.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of July Meeting
- Lamson Woods
- Preserve Nomination Updates
  - Banister-McGregor Woods
  - Hartman Bluff
- Seed Harvest Request
- Scenic Preserve Report
- Fossil and Prairie Park Nomination for Preserve Dedication
- Preserve Management Report Forms
- Research Updates
- Seed Harvest Policy
- Preserve Visits
- Open Discussion
- Meeting Schedule for 2005

###

# ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of September 28, 2004**

**www.iowadnr.com**

**The Iowa Fishing Report is issued every other week into the fall.** For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

## **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Perch fishing is slow. Some anglers have had success fishing from Hales Slough to Big Stoney in 10 to 14 feet of water. Jackson Point and out from the old footbridge have also given up some fish. Walleye fishing is hit or miss. A lot of sub-legal fish are still being caught. Minnows on spinner rigs and crankbaits have been lures of choice. Fish are starting to move shallow at night and there have been some nice catches by wade-in anglers using suspending crankbaits. Look for areas where water is flowing in, like Hales Slough, Reeds Run, Sand Bar Beach, footbridge and Buffalo Run. Fish these spots during the day in deeper water and move in shallow at night as the fish move in to feed. Smallmouth bass can be caught in among the shallow rocks early in morning. Northern pike fishing has continued to improve. Fish the weed lines close to inlets.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing is fair trolling crankbaits or live bait in 8 to 12 feet of water. The Baptist Camp and Berkley fish habitat areas are producing the best. Remember the 14-inch minimum length limit. Yellow bass are being caught in 8 to 10 feet of water between Dodge's Point and the Baptist Camp. Drifting cut bait and minnows across this flat is producing good numbers of yellow bass.

**Beeds Lake** (Franklin): Crappie fishing is good. Drift or troll small jigs, or fish from the end of the jetties for the best action. Crappies are 7 to 9 inches.

**Brushy Creek** (Webster): Fishing remains slow. Bluegills have been caught around the submerged trees using wax worms or a piece of worm. Some nice catfish have been caught on dead chubs. A few walleyes have been caught in the evening using leeches.

**Yellow Smoke** (Crawford): Bluegill fishing is fair to good using small jigs and wax worms.

**North Twin** (Calhoun): Bluegill fishing is good using jigs tipped with night crawlers or wax worms.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

## **Southwest**

**Viking** (Montgomery): Crappie and bluegill fishing is fair using jigs tipped with night crawler or minnow in 6 to 8 feet of water. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver.

**Cold Springs** (Cass): Fishing is fair for crappies around the brush piles. Channel catfish fishing is fair.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Fishing is good for channel catfish. Walleyes are being caught on the west shore along the rocks.

**Orient** (Adair): Channel catfish are fair in evenings using liver.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Bluegills and crappies are fair around brush piles. Channel catfish are good toward evening.

**Mormon Trail** (Adair): Walleye fishing is good using crankbaits or jigs. The 7 to 9-inch crappies can be caught using minnows in 6 to 8 feet of water. Bluegills are being caught drifting a piece of night crawler 5 to 7 feet deep in front of dam. Channel catfish are good using night crawlers or liver.

**Meadow** (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair on jigs and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Fishing is fair for 7-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water using jigs and minnows around rocks and woody structure. Bass fishing is good. Anglers are catching channel catfish on liver.

**Littlefield Lake** (Audubon): Fishing is fair for large bluegills drifting with night crawlers. Channel catfish fishing is good.

**Willow** (Harrison): Largemouth Bass fishing is fair in the evenings around structure. Bluegills are good along weed edges. Channel catfish are being caught in the evenings using chicken liver.

**Southwest Iowa Farm Ponds**: Channel catfish, bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is fair. Remember to ask permission and clean up after yourself.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been fair using plain hooks and worms, with fish 8 inches or larger common. Crappie fishing has been slow to fair in deeper water using jigs and minnows. An occasional nice walleye has been reported caught trolling crankbaits. Channel catfish fishing has been good using night crawlers and cut and stink baits. The best fishing is at night or early morning.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair to good using jigs or hooks with worms or wax worms. Crappie fishing has been slow. Channel catfish fishing is good with cut and stink baits. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good, although most fish are below the legal size limit.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms and jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow using buzz baits and surface lures.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Crappie fishing has been fair to good using jigs and minnows. The better fishing has been in deeper water. Bluegill fishing has picked up using small jigs/hooks and worms.

**Don Williams** (Boone): Crappie fishing has improved with the cooler weather. Use minnows and jigs in 5 to 10 feet of water for the best action. Bluegill fishing has been slow using small jigs and worms. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow. The best fishing has come from surface plugs and crankbaits.

**Rock Creek Lake** (Jasper): Crappie fishing has been slow to fair in deeper water using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good along the shorelines and shallow water. Largemouth bass fishing has been relatively slow, but a few nice fish have been caught on jigs and night crawlers.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been fair for smaller fish. Crappie fishing has been fair with the advent of cooler weather, with jigs and minnows or jigs and night crawlers the preferred baits. Some nice walleye have been caught while trolling

lures or jigs along the face of the dam. Channel catfish fishing has been good on night crawlers and stink baits.

**Red Rock (Marion):** White bass fishing is excellent using crankbaits, sonars and a variety of casting lures. Crappies are good to excellent, with the better areas along the dam face and Roberts Creek area. Channel catfish has slowed. The best areas are in the bays and coves.

**Red Rock tailwater (Marion):** White bass fishing is good in the tail water using jigs and minnows. Crappie fishing is good using jigs. Anglers are catching a number of 10 to 14-inch fish.

**Roberts Creek (Marion):** Crappie fishing is good using jigs with minnows. White bass/wiper fishing is good near the outlet into Red Rock.

**Saylorville Lake (Polk):** Fishing has been good for white bass from 3 to 4 pounds. From a boat, fishing has been good trolling crankbaits, and from shore, fishing has been good casting small spoons. A few wipers were mixed in. Channel catfish fishing has been good with traditional baits. One of the better areas is the spillway outlet from Big Creek Lake. .

**Saylorville Lake tailwater/river (Polk):** White bass and channel catfish fishing have been good below Saylorville Reservoir. Flathead catfish fishing is fair with some nice fish caught. A few crappie and walleye have also been reported.

**Three Mile (Union):** Bluegills are being caught using wax worms and night crawlers. Some crappies are being caught minnows in 8 to 14 feet of water around the flooded timber. Anglers are starting to catch muskies.

**Twelve Mile (Union):** Fishing for channel catfish is good using night crawlers or liver.

**Green Valley (Union):** Channel catfish can be caught in the bays using liver and night crawlers. Some crappies can be caught using minnows around the deeper brush piles. Some bluegill can be caught on night crawlers and wax worms.

**Little River (Decatur):** Catfish can be caught in the open bays using liver or night crawlers. Crappies are being caught in the flooded trees and deeper bays. Some walleyes are being taken with crankbaits.

**Slip Bluff (Decatur):** Some crappies are being caught off the deeper trees piles and flooded timber.

**West Lake Osceola (Clarke):** Largemouth bass are biting on crankbaits and jigs. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver.

**Fogle Lake (Ringgold):** Channel catfish can be caught in the rocks or shallow bays. The lake is currently being lowered to improve fish growth but is still accessible for fishing.

**Walnut Creek Marsh (Ringgold):** Bluegill can be caught along the south dike. Crappie can be caught on minnows around the stumps.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** Fishing on the Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19 has been fair. The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 72 degrees and the water levels are expected to drop gradually over the next several days. The Cedar

River and Iowa River are high due to recent rains. Water levels are expected to be higher than normal and water clarity conditions are poor on Pool 18 and 19. In **Pools 16 to 19**, fishing for channel catfish continues to be good on various baits around the wing dams, off the main channel, around rock shorelines, and below the dams. Bluegill fishing has been fair. Anglers are picking up a few bluegills around the wing dams. Anglers report that crappie fishing has been good with some sorting for sizeable fish. Look for crappie and bluegills in the deeper backwater areas such as Big Timber and Lake Odessa. Bluegill and crappie can be found in backwater areas around submerged brush piles, stumps, and logs along the shoreline. Anglers are also catching a few largemouth bass in the backwaters on various artificial baits and on night crawlers. Walleye and sauger fishing has been slow; anglers are picking up a few walleye and sauger around the wing dams, islands, and in the tailwaters on jigs, three-way rigs and crankbaits. Water is being let into Lake Odessa so fishing should improve in this area.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): The water level is slowly being brought up for the fall. Concentrate around the inlet gate as the crappies and catfish will be looking for minnows and small fish to be brought in by the current.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Catfish are starting to concentrate around the island by the campground to feed on the abundant green sunfish hiding in the rocks. The water is starting to cool enough that the larger bass are starting to move for the fall feed.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): The bluegills are starting to move back into the shallower water. Use a small jig tipped with a worm or wax worm.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): Start working the weed beds during the afternoons as the bluegills and red ear sunfish will be on the edges feeding on insects and snails to get fattened up for the winter.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on minnows fished in 5 to 10 feet of water. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Crappies have been biting on minnows fished in 8 to 10 feet of water over brush piles. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and stink bait.

**Lake Miami** (Monroe): Fishing has been slow for bluegills and crappies. Anglers have been catching some on small jigs. Largemouth bass have been hitting artificial lures fished in the standing timber.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Fishing for bluegills has slowed a little but anglers drifting minnows and small jigs in the 8 to 12 feet of water are still catching fish. Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures fished near structure.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Crappie fishing is starting to pick up. Fish small jigs around the brush piles and trees.

**Hannan Lake** (Benton) Channel catfish are being caught on chicken liver and night crawlers, and bluegills are being taken on small worms. Anglers should keep in mind that the lake is being drawn down four feet for lake construction.

**Kent Park** (Johnson): Bluegill fishing has been moderate, with most fish being caught on worms. Channel catfish have been hitting on chicken liver. Early morning and late evening is the most productive.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Crappie fishing has been spotty but is beginning to pick up. Fish a jig and minnow combination around the brush.

**Rodgers Lake** (Benton): Channel catfish are being caught on chicken liver and night crawlers, and bluegills are being taken on small worms.

**Union Grove Lake** (Tama): A few catfish are being caught on liver and night crawlers. Most fish are concentrated around the brush piles.

**Iowa River** (Washington and Louisa): Water levels are still a little higher than normal for this time of year. Look for some trouble getting around some of the sandbars near Wapello. Catfishing has been fair on minnows and night crawlers.

**Skunk River** (Washington): The river is about at its regular fall level, boating will become "boating and dragging" for those who want to go fishing. Catfishing below the riffles is good and will become better as the catfish go on their fall feeding frenzy.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Jones): A few channel catfish, white bass, and walleyes are being caught below the dams.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** The Mississippi River at Guttenberg has dropped to 67 degrees. Water levels are up and expected to remain stable over the next week. Good fishing continues on **Pools 9 to 11** with white bass, bluegill, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, and sauger all being caught in good numbers. Nice sized bluegills are being caught in tailwater areas of **Lock and Dam 9 and 10**. A simple rig with a night crawler and a small split shot works best. Walleye and sauger action is also quite good at times on the Mississippi River. Some fish are being taken in the tailwaters of **Locks and Dams 9 and 10**. Most tailwater anglers are using a jig tipped with a minnow. Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass fishing has been excellent in **Pools 9 to 11**. These fish are being caught on a variety of lures, but the traditional tube jig and spinner baits are working best. Largemouth are generally found in backwater lakes on the Mississippi, however, with the low water levels, these fish are moving out into current areas. Look for largemouth to hang out near the openings of large backwater complexes or in adjacent flowing sloughs. Some are even being caught on rock wing dams. Big Slough and DeSoto Bay near Lansing have been hot in **Pool 9**. In **Pool 10**, McGregor Lake and the lakes near Wylusing Slough have been excellent and Cassville Slough has produced well in recent weeks. Smallmouth bass fishing is also excellent in **Pools 9 to 11**. Smallmouth bass are found in swift current areas with rock. These areas are generally associated with main channel rocky habitats, including bank stabilization rock, day markers or wing dams. Spinners and crankbaits are the lures of choice for this feisty fish. Using top-water lures, such as floating crankbaits or even bug imitation lures can also be effective for smallies. Many fish are in the sub-legal 10 to 13-inch range, but are still fun to catch. The size limit on large and smallmouth bass in the Mississippi River is 14 inches.

Water level on the **Mississippi River** at Bellevue is at 6.9 feet and expected to hold steady through the remainder of the week. Water temperature is 68 degrees. Fishing is fair for channel catfish in **Pools 12 to 15**. Fish for channel catfish in the main channel and main channel border areas with current using cheese baits—move to find fish! Freshwater drum fishing is good along the wing dams and side sloughs with current using crawlers in **Pools 12 to 15**. Bluegill fishing is good in a wide variety of locations



in **Pools 12 to 15**. Bluegill are being caught main channel border, side sloughs and in the backwater sloughs with little or no current. A piece of night crawler fished either under a bobber or along the bottom using a split shot can produce some nice fish. Walleye and largemouth bass fishing has slowed with reports of a few fish being caught in **Pools 12 to 15**. A few sauger are being taken in the tailwater areas in **Pools 12 to 15**. Crappie fishing is fair in **Pools 12 to 15** with a few being taken in backwater sloughs next to woody structure. Fish a minnow or tube jig under a bobber or straight line (vertical jig) in 1 to 7 feet of water for crappies. As always, if you're fishing in the Mississippi River and don't get a bite within 10 to 15 minutes, move to find feeding fish.

The **Cedar River** (Bremer and Black Hawk) is high from heavy rains last week in Minnesota; however, fishing is good on the adjacent tributary streams. The **West Fork Cedar River**, **Beaver Creek** and **Black Hawk Creek** (Black Hawk) are all good for smallmouth bass, channel catfish and northern pike.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Buchanan) is fair for walleye on jigs and night crawlers.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware): The 4.5 mile catch-and-release area on the Maquoketa River below the Lake Delhi Dam is good for smallmouth bass on night crawler and jig combinations.

**Upper Iowa River** (Winneshiek): Smallmouth fishing is good using jigs or crankbaits.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): A few bluegills are being picked up using worms or a small piece of night crawler fished next to structure.

**Meyer Lake** (Winneshiek): Bluegill and crappie fishing is good on small jigs.

**Trout** fishing is excellent and streams are clear and fishable. September marks the end of the announced plants of trout in Northeast Iowa. Trout streams will still be stocked on a regular basis through October and the fall colors give anglers another reason to enjoy trout fishing along our remote streams. The weather is beautiful and you'll find less competition for your favorite fishing holes. For current trout stocking information on northeast Iowa trout streams, call the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736. You can also access the proposed trout stocking calendar through the Internet at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and go to the fish and fishing web pages.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

###